

INSIDE

BACKPACKER / ESSENTIALS



AUSTRALIA/NZ LONELY PLANET'S TOP 10



GLOBAL HOLA BRAZIL



GETAWAYS
TOP DEALS IN OZ & NZ



WILD WHEELS CYCLE NELSON NZ



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SYDNEY
SUBURBAN SURPRISES



MALAYSIA MORE THAN YOU EXPECT



WHAT'S ON AUSTRALIA/NZ EVENTS

VOL 18 / No 1 FEBRUARY 2014

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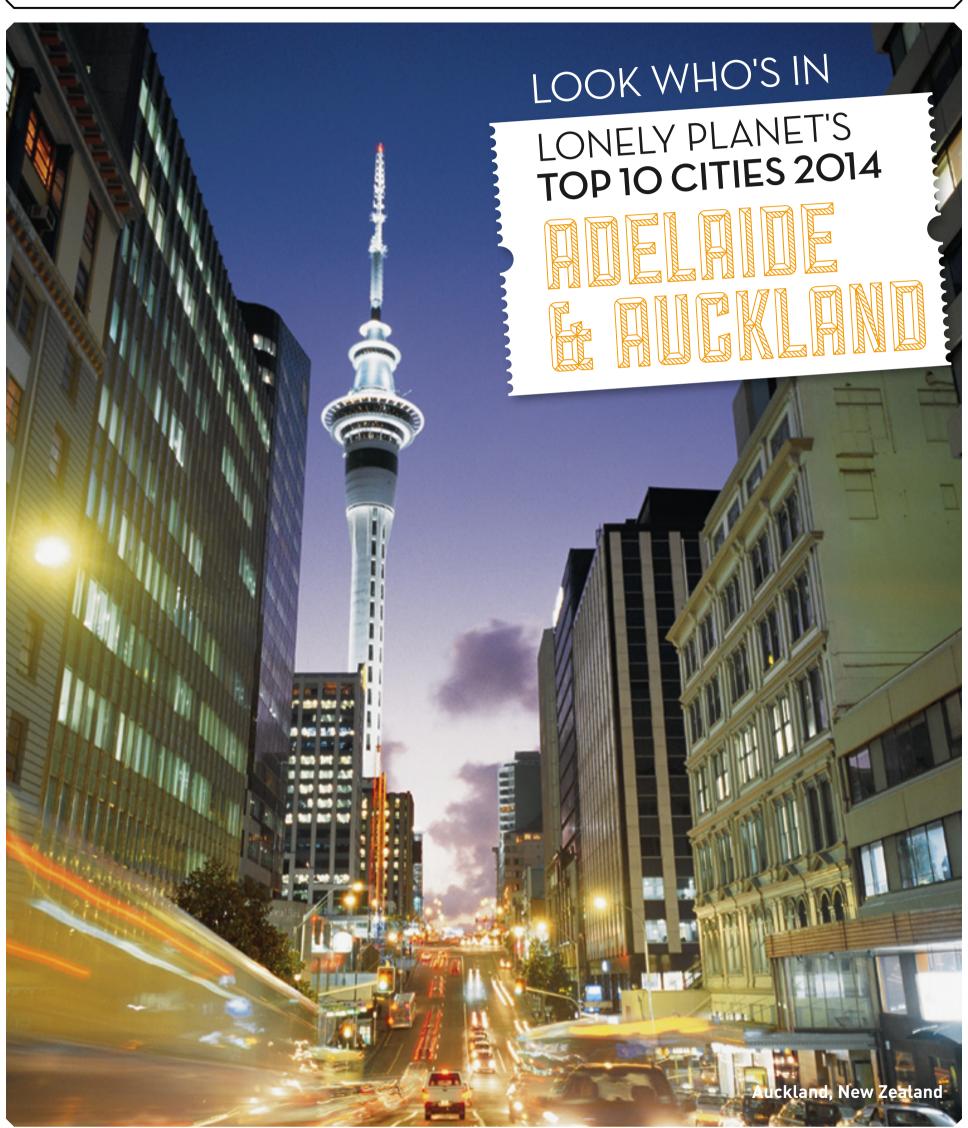
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AUSTRALIA/NZ

NEWS / COMING SOON / YOUR SAY



Kieran Scott Tourism NZ







/ NEWS I

ADELAIDE AND AUCKLAND IN TOP 10

If you haven't discovered the delights of Adelaide or Auckland yet, now may be the time, with both cities making Lonely Planet's Top 10 Cities to Visit in 2014.

Perhaps the guide book publisher was won over by the duo's compact centres surrounded by alluring natural attractions, both offering sparkling waterfronts that sit cheek-by-jowl with white sandy beaches, rolling farmland, and forest all waiting to be 'uncorked'. The justly famous Barossa Valley is only an hour from the South Australian capital, while a half hour ferry ride across Auckland's charismatic harbour will take you to the boutique wineries and olive groves of Waiheke Island.

Perhaps it's the great cultural institutions, proudly proclaiming the history of each city – from imposing portraits of Maori elders in the Auckland Art Gallery, to the story of hardships faced by early settlers at the Migration Museum in Adelaide.

But it's most likely the intangible street cred that has caught Lonely Planet's eye. For both cities are bustling with a unique energy and 'effortless chic', emanating from their hip cafés, eclectic stores, fun attractions and calendar of cool events celebrating the great, the new and the off-the-radar in all things music, cuisine, sport and art.

If you had any doubts about Adelaide's reputation as Australia's Festival City turn to the What's On section of this issue for proof.



ADELAIDE CENTRAL YHA

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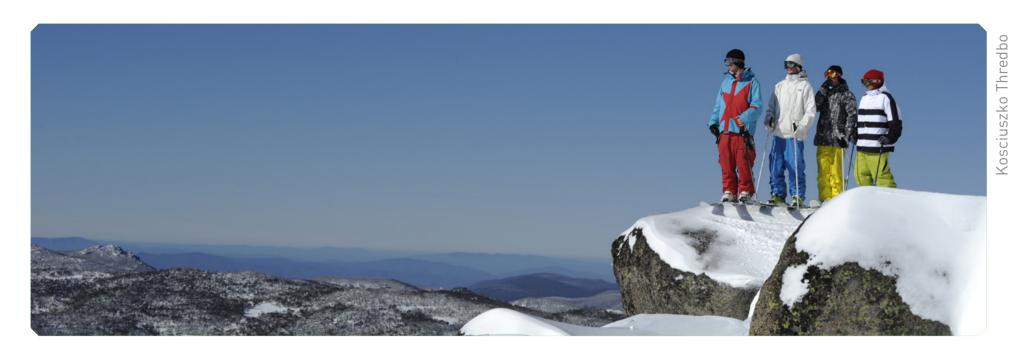
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YHA AUCKLAND INTERNATIONAL

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COMING SOON

SNOW BUSINESS

SKI AUSTRALIA

It's never too early to start thinking about a snow holiday close to home, especially with Thredbo earlybird ski season bookings available from 1 March 2014.

Peak season prices start from AU\$192 per person (two night weekend) and \$164 per person mid-week (two nights), making Thredbo YHA the hottest ticket in town.

This multi-award winning ski lodge in the centre of one of Australia's prime alpine village ski areas, offers cosy twin and dorm rooms, plus a four-person studio apartment. Best of all, by staying on the mountain you can take advantage of the first lifts of the day and stick around for night skiing on the longest, highest and steepest runs anywhere in Oz.

The 2014 Australian ski season runs from 7 June to 4 October 2014.

THREDBO YHA

- ♦ thredbo@yha.com.au
- yha.com.au

SKI NEW ZEALAND

Love skiing, snowboarding, snow shoeing or any and all fun on and off the piste? Check out New Zealand's great snow hostels located near some of the country's best slopes. But book your alpine holiday early, once the white stuff hits the mountains beds fill up fast.

Watch this space for snow news and deals from around New Zealand.



- ♦ book@yha.co.nz
- yha.co.nz

YHA HITS 75 YEARS

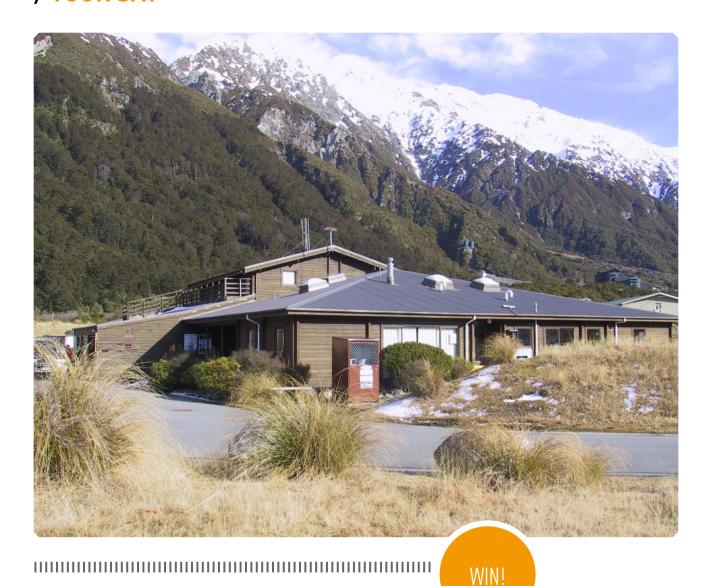
This year YHA is celebrating 75 years since the first youth hostel was established in Australia – at Warrandyte in the Victorian bush. Dr Fritz Duras and Dr Alex Scholes set up the youth hostel movement in Australia in 1939,



following the world's first youth hostel that had been founded in Altena, Germany in 1909. The first guest in Australia was 'E Whelan' from Liverpool, UK, who was walking his way round the world, having covered 6,000 miles on foot! From these humble origins, YHA is now a network of nearly 100 unique places to stay across Australia. Happy 75th birthday!

BOOK

NOW



Got a place to nominate? Want to win a great travel prize?

Mikaela will be receiving a \$100 voucher from Kathmandu. Visit kathmandu.com.au. Tell us your favourite YHA (in less than 100 words) and send it, with your contact details, to backpackeressentials@yha.com.au



YHA MT COOK

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- ♦ mtcook@yha.co.nz

......

yha.co.nz



NOMINATED BY MIKAELA RÜEGG, NZ

My experience staying at the YHA Mt Cook hostel was fantastic!

The aspect I loved most about the hostel was the fact that everything held beauty, even the walls.

The Mt Cook hostel has the feel of a warm log cabin, with its rustic wood walls, constant toasty rooms and blazing fireplace in the common room.

Every hostel should feel like a home away from home, the YHA Mt Cook hostel sure did.

SHOW BUSINESS

YHA has proved it's still the best in the Aussie backpacking business, taking home gold at the Australian Tourism Awards in February 2014.

Sydney Harbour YHA was named Best Backpacker Accommodation in Australia, just ahead of hot property Cairns Central YHA, which took out top honours in Queensland. The win, the third in a row for the Sydney hostel, sees it enter the Awards Hall of Fame.

Still on the awards trail, YHA also took home four awards at the Golden Backpack Awards in November 2013, where backpackers voted Noosa's Halse Lodge YHA, Perth City YHA and Port Lincoln YHA best in their state. Noosa YHA also took out top honours as Australia's Best Hostel.

Be sure to check out the best hostels in Australia on your next adventure.

Book online at yha.com.au



GLOBAL

NOW OPEN / COMING SOON / EVENTS





SALVADOR, BRAZIL

Salvador's new F Design Hostel, promises serious wow factor. Themed 4-8 share rooms range from the 60s Flower Power room, Backstage and Tropical Rainforest rooms, to the DJ room, featuring individual MP3 players in each bed with set lists created exclusively for the hostel by Brazil's best DJs. There are also four private concept rooms with ensuite facilities: Kalahari, Tokyo, Old Bahia and Lakshimi.

Among the "little luxuries" you'll find a small cinema, living room, rooftop pool and terrace with views of the beach 100m away, three bars, a lobby that doubles as an art gallery, and the Urubu Club.

Venture out of the hostel and explore Salvador's World Heritage old town crammed with multi-coloured architecture and gold-laden churches, a legacy of its days as the capital of Portugal's New World colony. One of the oldest cities in the Americas, Salvador is also the center of Afro-Brazilian culture and birthplace of capoeira. Throw in kilometres of beaches, some of Brazil's best restaurants, and the largest street carnival in the world (yes, even bigger than Rio's) and you may never want to leave.





F DESIGN HOSTEL

- ♦ reservas@fdesignhostel.com
- hihostels.com.au

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

A tropical cocktail of rainforest, mountains, white sandy beaches and urban chaos, it's little wonder Rio de Janiero is described as Brazil's cidade maravilhosa (marvellous city).

Located in Rio's Recreio area, two blocks from Macumba Beach, the new Rio Surf and Stay hostel is a sanctuary for travellers looking to experience a different side to the city in between caipirinhas, the Corcovado and Copacabana.

As the name suggests, the hostel boasts an on-site surf school offering lessons, rentals, a professional crew, and even a customised VW to get you to the best waves and semi-secret beaches for some unforgettable travel memories.

Guests can choose between two comfortable six-bed rooms (one opening onto a big balcony with hammocks), or double/twin rooms with private bathrooms. Breakfast and free internet/WiFi are included in the price, plus there's a kitchen, BBQ, TV lounge, and a chill-out bar and garden where guests can test their balance on the slackline rope. Of course, if you'd prefer to swap surf for samba, sightseeing, or the views from Sugar Loaf mountain, head straight to the multi-lingual staff at the hostel's travel desk.





Shutterstock

- ◆ riosurfnstay@gmail.com
- hihostels.com.au

HOSTEL

SAO MIGUEL DO GOSTOSOS, BRAZIL

One of the so-called jewels of Brazil's Rio Grande do Norte in the North East, São Miguel do Gostoso is a paradise of dazzling white beaches, clear waters, dense coconut forests, and charming fishing



HOSTEL JANGADA

- ◆ contato@albergedajangada.com
- hihostels.com.au

villages just waiting to be discovered by intrepid travellers.

Those in the know are drawn here by the mellow pace of life, year-round water and sand sports, and a 30km coastline boasting some of the country's most beautiful beaches, lakes and dunes.

The new HI Jangada hostel has a plumb position right in front of Ponta de Santo Cristo Beach, offering pretty impressive views while you chill out in the lounge, library or sunny garden. Accommodation ranges from multi-share rooms sleeping up to five people, to private rooms and even a studio. Facilities include internet, BBQ, 24-hour access, a cafe/bar and meals area, and a handy tour desk.

But the real talking point is the hostel's Escola Gostoso kitesurfing school with classes catering from beginners to pro. Not surprising considering the hostel is the brainchild of French professional kitesurfer, Remi Denis Scott.



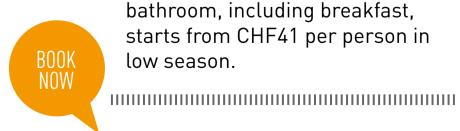
GSTAAD-SAANENLAND

Opening in June 2014, the 158-bed Gstaad Saanenland Hostel is located in the historic town of Saanen, recognised as one of the most beautiful chalet villages in the Bernese Oberland region.

Built on the site of the existing hostel, this modern interpretation of the local chalet style will offer four to six-share rooms, plus double and family rooms with ensuite, all finished to a typically fine Swiss standard. Wake to mountain views and enjoy a buffet breakfast (included), snack at the lounge bar, write home using the free WiFi/internet, get to know other travellers over a game of table tennis, billiards or fussball, put your feet up in the TV room, or take in the magnificent panorama of soaring peaks and timber chalets from the garden.

Stroll the traffic-free streets of the historic village with its 15th to 18th century chalets, or hob nob with celebrities in neighbouring Gstaad. The unparalleled variety of activities (there is 220km of winter piste) and wildly romantic landscapes just beg you to hike, bike, paddle, ski and let rip in the great outdoors.

A night in a four-bed room with private



bathroom, including breakfast, starts from CHF41 per person in low season.

GSTAAD SAANENLAND HOSTEL

- gstaadsaanenland@youthhostel.ch
- youthhostel.ch

SAAS-FEE

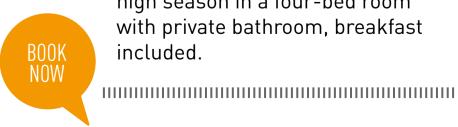
Combining modern, eco-friendly hostel design with an on-site sports and spa centre, Switzerland's first sport and wellness hostel promises to be something truly special.

Situated at the entrance to the outrageously pretty glacier village of Saas-Fee, right next to the imposing Fee Gorge, wellnessHostel4000 will spoil guests with a mix of double and fourbed rooms with private bathroom, plus six-bed rooms with shared facilities.

Admission to the wellness centre's 25m indoor swimming pool is included in the accommodation price, and quests can also take advantage of the gym, saunas, steam bath, whirlpool, and massage treatments - a real treat after a day on the ski slopes of the Allalin Glacier or action-packed adventure in the epic Swiss scenery.

Hostel facilities will include a stylish bistro offering meals, free WiFi, bar/lounge and TV room, while large glass windows will show off the staggering views of the valley and its panorama of 13 peaks, each over 4,000m.

This incredible mountain experience will set you back from CHF65.50 per person during



high season in a four-bed room with private bathroom, breakfast included.

WELLNESSHOSTEL4000

- wellnesshostel4000@youthhostel.ch
- youthhostel.ch

DESTINATION SCOTLAND

Scotland is set to take the world stage in 2014, with its year-long Homecoming Scotland program par excellence of events showcasing this dynamic and creative country. From tracing your ancestry and exploring unspoiled landscapes, to uncovering the eclectic line-up of brand new and world-famous events, and a little sporting event called the COMMONWEALTH GAMES, the land of lochs, lairds and lassies is high on our list of countries to watch in 2014. Here are just a few highlights...



GLASGOW INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL 14 March - 5 April 2014

For 18 rib-tickling days, the cream of comedy will descend on Glasgow for Europe's largest program of stand-up, comedy theatre, film and workshops. Miranda Hart, The US's Janeane Garofalo, satirist Rory Bremner and feisty Ruby Wax – 2014 is shaping up to be the biggest year yet!

HIGHLAND GAMES May to September 2014

A full program of Highland Games, with their combination of culture, sport and social entertainment from heavy athletics to Highland Dance, takes place in towns, vilalges and within the grounds of famed castles across the country. Visit the Braemar Gathering and you might even see the Royal Family, who traditionally drop in.

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 18-29 June 2014

One of the big wigs of world cinema celebrations, the 67th Edinburgh Film Festival will treat cinephiles to glitzy premieres, exciting cinematic discoveries, immersive events, and innovative films.

BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN 23-24 June 2014

Marking the 700th anniversary of Scotland's most famous battle, this three-day celebration includes the biggest ever re-enactment of the Battle of Bannockburn. Themed villages will also invite you to see, taste, smell, hear and discover medieval life in the historical encampments.

EDINBURGH MILITARY TATTOO 1-23 August 2014

You might have seen it on TV but nothing compares to the ceremony and spectacle of the Tatoo live. Edinburgh Castle sets a dazzling stage as hundreds of pipers, dancers, drummers, singers and musicians from countries around the world strut their stuff, ending with fireworks over the Castle.

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL & EDINBURGH FRINGE 8-31 August 2014

The centrepiece of Scotland's summer festival season, the Edinburgh Festival, is an extravaganza of performing arts turning the city into a showcase for the best in music, theatre and dance with a huge program of events. If you like your culture a bit edgier, then get along to Edinburgh Fringe from 1-25 August, the world's largest art festival. Unusual, provocative, dramatic and hilarious, take your pick of thousands of events across the city – exhibitions, concerts, shows, plays, comedy nights, and lots of street entertainment.

HOGMANAY 31 December 2014

Scotland really knows how to throw a party, so why not ring in the New Year with the sound and light shows, parades, music, ceilidhs, street parties and fireworks of Hogmanay.

The Red Heart

IT'S NEVER BEEN EASIER TO FLY
IN AND OUT OF THE CENTRE OF AUSTRALIA BUT,

JANET MCGARRY ARGUES THE CASE FOR

A MORE LEISURELY APPROACH.





THERE IS NOTHING QUITE

OF THE SKY AFTER DARK

the doors of town. A sunset stroll up Anzac Hill gives you a full 360 degree perspective of Alice's location beneath the Western MacDonnell Ranges.

The town centre itself is compact, but allow enough time for a visit to the splendid Alice Springs Desert

Park, renowned for its desert birds and plants. Most people also plan a visit to the School of the Air and the Royal Flying Doctor Service HQ.

Making your way to Uluru, you have a couple of options: the lengthier scenic route is west from Alice visiting the beautiful gorges of the West MacDonnells, through to Glen Helen. From there, the adventurous can take Larapinta Drive around to Watarrka National Park, or keep to the more travelled route east past the entrance to Palm Valley. You rejoin the Sturt Highway and head south from there, or with a 4WD, take a magnificent day drive through Finke Gorge National Park coming back to the main road into Watarrka. The choices really come down to time, vehicle and driving experience – but remember to plan fuel, food and overnight stops as choices are limited.

Watarrka National Park is home to Kings Canyon – a towering canyon-like red gorge famous for its rim walk. Incredibly hot in



TOP 3 RED CENTRE ACTIVITIES

Don't come so far not to get out amongst it:

Camel Safari

They may be a bit grumpy, but this is a terrific way to see the desert at sunrise.

Motorcycles

Like something with more horse-power?
A Harley ride around Uluru is just the ticket.

Indigenous Activities

Yulara now hosts a regular program of indigenous activities mainly held in the town centre and open to all.

summer, the walk takes 2-4 hours and offers terrific views. It's perfect in mid winter - popular but nowhere near as busy as Uluru; a spot more frequented by backpackers and grey nomads.

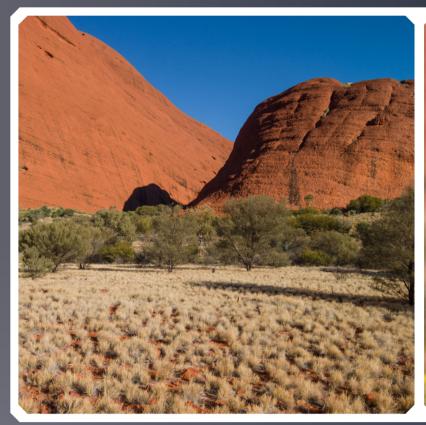
An overnight stop at Kings Canyon Resort allows you time to savour both the sunset and desert night sky. There is nothing quite like the incredible sight of the sky after dark. With no light pollution and clear visibility, a visual feast of stars opens up above you. My favourite option is to take a rug and a torch, wander a little away from the resort, and just lie back and absorb it all. But if dining under the stars is your fancy, Kings Canyon offers a slightly cheaper and less crowded special starlit dinner than the more famous option at Uluru.

The next day, it's an easy drive to Uluru and all there is to see and do here and out at Kata Tjuta before hopping on a return flight home out of Ayers Rock Airport.



I found the Cultural Centre a bit of a disappointment – in need of updating, it has good information on the National Park and local indigenous communities but considering the numbers visiting should

be renovated soon.





FLY-TOUR-FLY

Want no-hassle travelling, and enjoy having company? Then this is the option for you, combining the Alice Springs leg above, with a 3 day/2 night outback tour. There are lots of companies to choose from but the backpacker ones offer terrific value for money. The Rock Tour is

probably the best known of these and benefits from being specialists – this is all they do so they do it really well.

An early start out of Alice ensures that the first long day packs in the rim walk at Kings Canyon, a lot of kilometres, and a night sleeping under the stars in swags on a station, before you reach the Rock. There's nothing quite like dinner whipped up on the open fire, a few glasses of whatever takes your fancy, some tall stories and then drifting off to sleep tucked up in a sleeping bag. It won't be the most comfortable night you'll ever have, but it will be one you'll remember.

Day two knocks off the Uluru highlights — the Valley of the Winds walk at Kata Tjuta and the base walk at the Rock before finishing with dinner at the sunset viewing point. That ground feels a lot harder at night but at least there's a hot shower in the campground at Yulara.

The last day in the Red Centre, you can settle in for the drive back to Alice and a few drinks with new friends to close out the tour, or hop on a plane out of Ayers Rock and wing your way home.

What is sure, whichever option you choose, slow down if you can, take in the sights, colours and textures of this wonderful landscape that is Central Australia.

WHERE TO STAY

ALICE SPRINGS YHA

- **◆** (+618) 8952 8855
- ◆ alicesprings@yha.com.au
- ♦ yha.com.au

YHA members can also save with special member discounts at Kings Canyon Resort and the Outback Pioneer Lodge at Ayers Rock

GETTING THERE

Alice Springs YHA can organise coach transfers from Alice to Ayers Rock on AAT Kings. Enjoy The Rock Tour with two nights (one pre and one post tour) at Alice Springs YHA – **book online**

BOOK NOW



DEALS



YHA DEALS IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND



MURWILLUMBAH BIKE, HIKE & PADDLE 🛷



Make the most of a stay in NSW's beautiful northern hinterland with this 3-in-1 package. Paddle the languid waters of the Tweed River, cycle around town or past sugar cane fields and rolling farmland, and visit the Southern Hemisphere's largest extinct volcano core, Mount Warning. Murwillumbah YHA is offering:

- 3 nights' multi-share accommodation
- Free transport to and from Mount Warning/ Wollumbin National Park
- Free canoe hire
- Free bike hire

BOOK

NOW

Priced from AU\$84 per person. Valid to 30 September 2014.



MURWILLUMBAH YHA

- +61 2 6672 3763
- ♦ murwillumbah@yha.com.au

Step into New Zealand's native bush for this nocturnal sights and sounds experience. Serenaded by evening birdsong, you'll be guided through Zealandia, the valley sanctuary for New Zealand's rarest birds, reptiles and insects. Listen for the ghostly echo of the ruru (morepork), and the scritch-scritch of tree weta, try to spot a kiwi foraging on the forest floor, glowworms shining, or kaka (parrots) coming in to roost. Zealandia is a 10 minute drive from YHA Wellington. Package includes:

- ◆ 1 night multi-share with YHA Wellington
- ◆ 2.5 hour night tour at Zealandia

.....

Priced from NZ\$99 per person in a 4-share ensuite room. Valid to 31 October 2014.



BOOK NOW

YHA WELLINGTON

- +64 4 801 7280
- ♦ wellington@yha.co.nz

ADELAIDE DOLPHIN SWIM SPECIAL 🛷



Don't miss the once-in-a-lifetime experience of swimming with one of the world's most fascinating and curious creatures. Enjoy the show from above, as Adelaide's playful dolphins frolic around your cruising catamaran, before joining these friendly mammals in the water while they whistle, twirl and show off their masterful synchronised swimming for an underwater encounter you'll never forget.

- ◆ 2 nights' multi-share at Adelaide Central YHA
- ◆ 3.5 hour dolphin cruise with Temptation Sailing, approx 45 minutes swim time with the dolphins
- Wetsuits, masks and snorkels supplied Priced at AU\$143 per person. Valid to 31 March 2014.

BOOK NOW

ADELAIDE CENTRAL YHA

- +61 8 8414 3010
- 🔷 adlcentral@yha.com.au

PHILLIP ISLAND 3-DAY ADVENTURE **



Come and stay at the magical Phillip Island and experience all of the most popular wildlife attractions using your 3 Parks Pass. The pass gives you entry to see the world's smallest penguins at the Penguin Parade, visit the Koala Conservation Centre, and Churchill Island Heritage Farm. Package includes:

- ◆ 2 nights in a 6-share room at Phillip Island YHA
- ◆ Phillip Island Nature Park Adult 3 Park Pass

From AU\$106 per person - 20% off regular price. Valid to 30 November 2014 (exclusions apply during holidays and major events).





PHILLIP ISLAND YHA

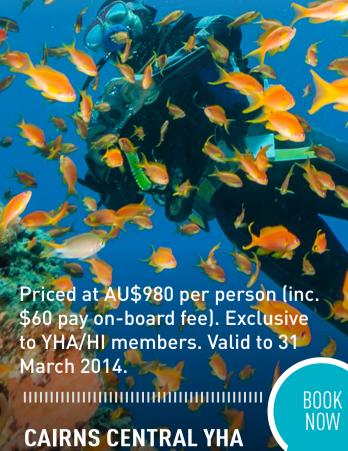
- +61 3 5956 6123
- ♦ phillipisland@yha.com.au

CAIRNS LEARN TO DIVE SENSATION



Take the plunge with this five-day PADI 'Open Water' dive course in the gorgeous tropical waters of Cairns. Learn the ropes then enjoy three days on a live-aboard cruise trip with dives on some of the best sites in the Outer Great Barrier Reef. There's also plenty of time to snorkel, relax and really enjoy the reef experience, making this course unmatched for experience and value. Package includes:

- ◆ 4 nights' multi-share at Cairns Central YHA
- ◆ 2 nights/3 days live-aboard dive cruise including all meals
- 9 dives (4 training dives, 4 pleasure dives, 1 night dive)
- ◆ PADI Gold Open Water Certification and manual, Dive Log Book and Dive Insurance
- Dive and snorkel equipment
- Accommodation transfers



- +61 7 4051 0772
- ♦ cairnscentral@yha.com.au

RAGLAN SUMMER SURF 'N SAND DEAL 🥋



Raglan locals have a secret: their surf breaks are world-class. So, what better place to learn to surf or perfect your cut-backs and bottom turns? Join YHA Raglan's in-house Solsurfer Surf School for expert tuition in a small group and experience the waves Raglan surfers bunk work for. Choose from two package options that can be tailored to your surfing ability:

Deal 1

- ◆ 2 nights' multi-share at YHA Raglan
- ◆ 1 beginner surf lesson including transport to the break
- Unlimited board and wetsuit hire for the duration of your stay

Deal 2

- ♦ 7 nights' multi-share at YHA Raglan
- ◆ 5 surf lessons, including transport to the break
- Unlimited board and wetsuit hire for duration of stay
- Pick-up and drop-off from Raglan township at the beginning and end of your stay

Priced from NZ\$152 per person for 2-night package and from \$580.50 per person 7-night package. Prices based on triple-share caboose. Camping, tipis and fully self-contained cottages are also available. Valid to 21 April 2014.



YHA RAGLAN

- +64 7 825 8268
- raglan@yha.co.nz

BOOK NOW

RAGLAN SUSTAINABLE LIVING SPECIAL



Live, breathe and learn about sustainability on the Raglan coast during YHA Raglan's Eco Logic Learning Adventures (ELLA). ELLA combines nature exploration, hands-on workshops, eco discussions and talks from visiting change makers in the Raglan community. Workshops and activities including yoga, kayaking, surfing, trekking, gardening, brick building, basket weaving and eco discussions. This all-inclusive eco program is set on the YHA's picturesque ten acres with sweeping sea views, organic gardens, eco lodgings, composting systems, adobe earth domes, free range chickens, a worm farm and a tipi retreat. Package includes:

- 4 nights' multi-share at YHA Raglan
- 5 days of activities and eco learning
- Vegetarian breakfast, lunch and dinner (mostly organic)
- Daily yoga

Priced from NZ\$670.50 per person multi-share. Valid to 31 March 2014.



YHA RAGLAN

- +64 7 825 8268
- ♦ raglan@yha.co.nz



GOLD COAST HINTERLAND EXPERIENCE



Venture back in time to the ancient "Gondwana Rainforest". Experience the treetop boardwalk and amazing wildlife of Lamington National Park, where you can spot forest kangaroos, platypus and koalas, and see majestic Natural Arch in Springbrook National Park, with its ancient boulder-strewn stream and Glow Worm Cave. This package includes:

- ◆ 2 nights' multi-share accommodation at Surfers Paradise YHA
- World Heritage 4WD day tour to Springbrook and Lamington National Parks

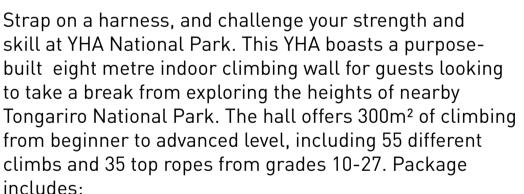
Priced at AU\$164 per person. Exclusive to YHA/HI members. Tour operates Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays only. Valid until 31 March 2014

BOOK NOW

SURFERS PARADISE YHA

- +61 7 5571 1776
- surfersparadise@yha.com.au

SLEEP 'N CLIMB IN NATIONAL PARK



- 2 nights at YHA National Park
- 1 all-day entry to the indoor climbing hall
- ◆ Harness, climbing shoes, carabiner and instruction

Priced from NZ\$52 per person multi-share. \$148 for 2 people in twin or double ensuite. Valid to 31 May 2014. Exclusive to YHA members.

BOOK NOW

YHA NATIONAL PARK

- +64 7 892 2870
- nationalpark@yha.co.nz



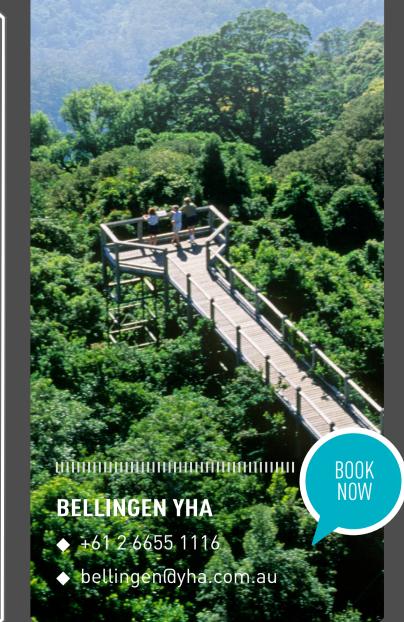
BELLINGEN DORRIGO DEAL ~



Tucked into the rich NSW hinterland only 30 minutes from Coffs Harbour, it doesn't take long to see why "Bello" is often called the cruisiest place on earth. The walks and waterfalls of Dorrigo Rainforest beckon to the west, uncrowded beaches to the east. while cafés, crafts and the languid river tempt you in town. Bellingen YHA is offering:

- ◆ 2 nights' in a multi-share room at Bellingen YHA
- Full-day guided tour on Wednesdays to World Heritage Dorrigo National Park including Skywalk, rainforest nature walk, Griffith Lookout, Dangar Falls walk and swim, and lunch stop in Dorrigo town (lunch not included).

Priced from AU\$89 per person. Valid to 31 March 2014. Tours operate Wednesdays only.



FEATURE / NEW ZEALAND



SOME OF US CYCLE FOR THE LOVE OF HILLS AND SOME OF US SOME OF US CYCLE FOR THE LOVE OF HILLS AND SOME OF US SOME TO AVOID THEM. NELSON/TASMAN IS THE SUNNIEST CYCLE TO AVOID THEM. NELSON/TASMAN IS THE SUNNIEST SOUTH ISLAND AND OFFERS REGION OF NEW ZEALAND'S SOUTH ISLAND WRITES EWEN BELL. SOME EXCELLENT ROUTES FOR EVERYONE WRITES AND SOME EXCELLENT ROUTES FOR EVERYONE WRITES FOR EVERYONE WRITES FOR EVERYONE WRITES FOR EVERYONE WRITES





in Nelson is mostly flat. Except for the one big hill looming high above the city where the Botanic Gardens and some very leafy suburbs enjoy a peaceful outlook. The city is modest in size and generous in character, filled with pretty pastry shops, chic coffee roasters and wonderful weekend markets where the farmers bring fresh produce into town. Nelson is the kind of place where Manuka honey and boysenberry cider rate highly with the locals.

Dedicated bike paths connect the suburbs of Nelson to the coastal scenery with a seaside cycling route heading past Tahuna Beach and winding all the way through to Rabbit Island and beyond. The tidal flows around Nelson are dramatic as the ocean retreats for miles and leaves behind muddy flats full of cockles and crabs. Little fishing boats are left high and dry at low tide, like abandoned Lego pieces in a sandbox.

As cycling routes go the journey from Nelson to Mapua is as easy as they get thanks to a handful of suspension bridges and recently upgraded trails. There's only one road section and even that's on a quiet stretch through apple orchards.





The bridge onto Rabbit Island passes over the Waimea Inlet with views of snow-capped peaks in the distance and local fishermen chasing whitebait below. The island itself is flat and full of sand with pine forests thriving inland and massive sand dunes along the 13 kilometre stretch of beach. Bird watchers come to spot tidal waders like the Royal Spoonbill which forage in the retreating tides. In summer the beach is ideal for taking a swim to cool off.

Rabbit Island is part of the Tasman's Great Taste Trail, a route that extends all the way from Nelson to the edge of the Abel Tasman National Park. A dedicated ferry service caters to cyclists coming through Rabbit Island, crossing at the northern tip to drop the bikes and riders on the shores of Mapua. This is a small fishing village with more than its fair share of fish 'n chips shops.

The local Smokehouse does the classic deep-fry style but also has a strong trade in slow smoked fish. Special treats like white warehou have a little more oil in the flesh and soak up the smokey flavours, and they're sold in picnic-sized portions that are perfect for packing in the pannier.

Mapua marks the 25 kilometre mark from Nelson, making this a good day trip with the option to follow the coast home again or ride inland through the apple trees of Richmond.

Beyond here the route gets more adventurous, relying more heavily on roads and getting a little steeper in sections. Getting out of Mapua and into the Tasman means pushing up the mountain for a few kilometres before rejoining the coast at sea level. This hill climb is not insignificant but serves as a warm-up for the Moutere Valley ahead.

Local fisherman chase whitebait on the Waimea Inlet, top left; The Smokehouse is a devotee to the ancient art of smoking fish and mussels, top and above.

Ewen Bell

Having spent the night in Motueka there's a side trip from the Tasman Loop that takes a windy path through some of the most scenic farmland around Golden Bay. Little stalls by the roadside sell jam and fruit, but the big prize is the wide open beaches at Kaiteriteri. The final section descends to the beach with views extending across either side of Golden Bay.

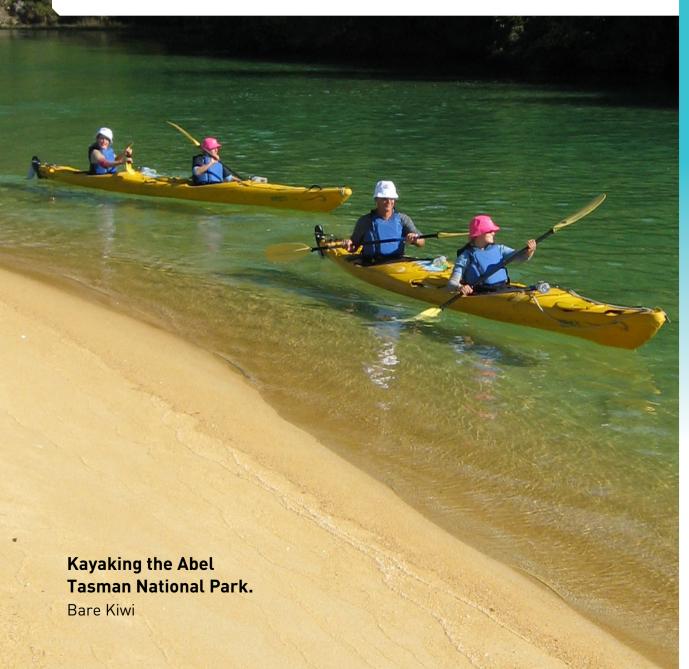
An early start for Kaiteriteri allows time for kayaking the Abel Tasman National Park or jumping on a boat. The rugged coastlines of the Abel Tasman and the chance to chase dolphins or watch for sea birds are in contrast to the gentle hills and soft sands elsewhere along the cycling trail.

If you do like hills then the Pigeon Valley Loop is your ticket, leaving the coastline at Motueka and heading inland towards the town of Moutere. Another 125 kilometres of riding plus a total climb of over 300 metres awaits cyclists on this route. The steepest section rises sharply after

Woodstock before a fast downhill section through Pigeon Valley and onto the flats of Wakefield. It's only another 20 kilometres before rejoining the coastal route past Richmond and the flat trails with sea views all the way into Nelson.

The lazy option is to divert along the Neudorf road and cut back towards the familiar coastline at Mapua. Along the way you get a choice of wineries to break up the ride, but also expect a few undulations and a bit of traffic from sightseers. Once you get out of the Upper Moutere the gentle trails of the coastal route make it an easy ride back to Nelson.

Mapua can be done as an easy day trip, but the longer route to Abel Tasman and into the Moutere Valley demands several days and a little planning. Temptations of wine and wilderness will add a little more time to the journey.





City of Nelson

Nelson is a small city but well spread out, so getting on two wheels can save you time when exploring the city (nelsonnz.com). Tripping down to Founders Park, the Botanical Garden, the famous Saturday market (nelsonmarket.co.nz) or out to Tahuna Beach is much easier on the bike and lets you soak up more of the sunshine.

Nelson to Mapua

The easiest and most travelled section of the Tasman's Great Taste Trail, only 25km and very flat (heartofbiking.org.nz). Renting a pedal from Nelson is easy and costs around NZ\$40 for the day. The ferry ride from Rabbit Island to Mapua Port is another \$16 (mapuaferry.co.nz)

Moutere Valley

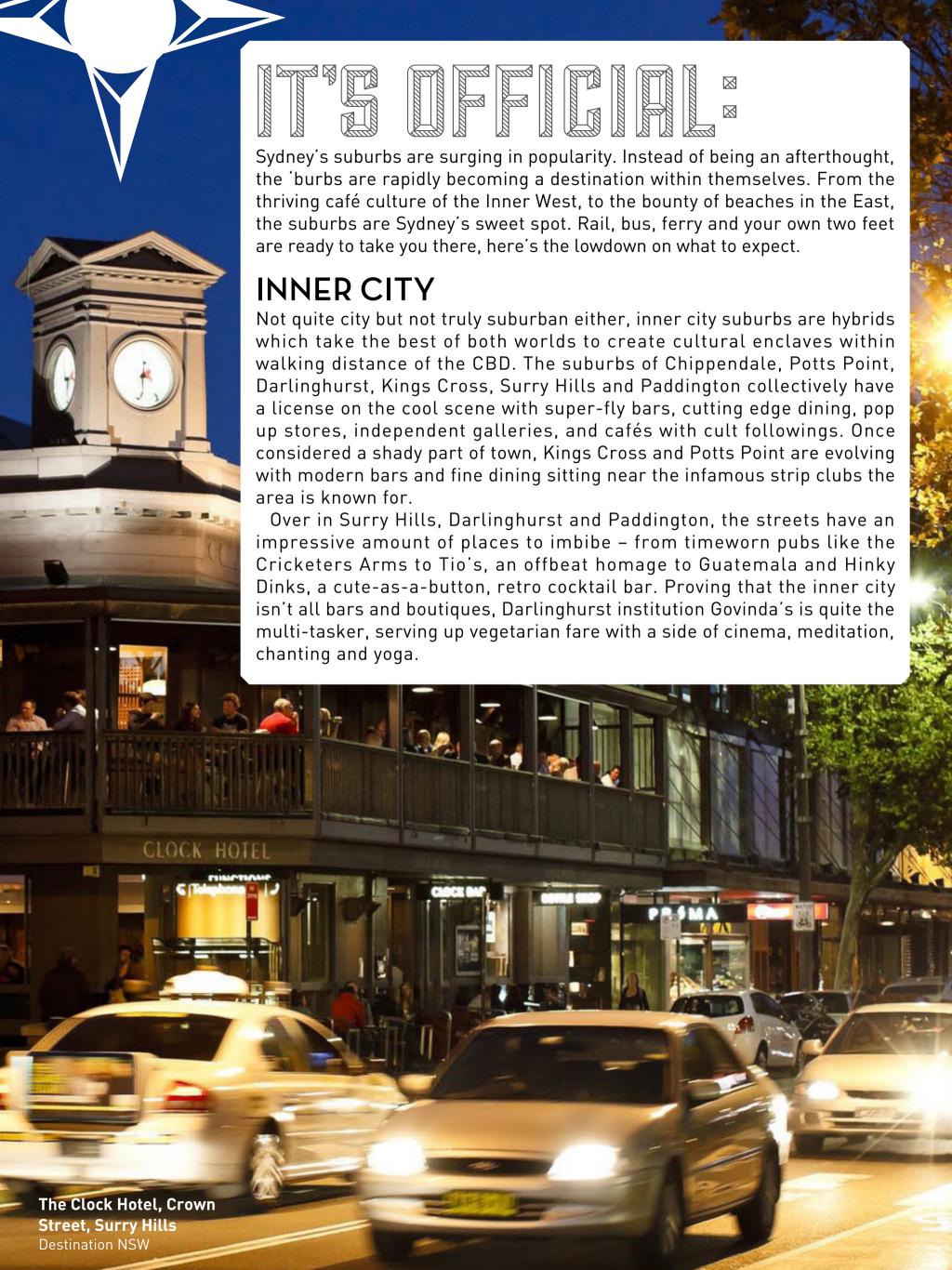
rine wines and gorgeous villages make Moutere a beautiful place to tackle a few hills. Some road riding is required to complete the Tasman Loop, a 175km route out of Nelson. Or you can arrange a 4 day self-guided package that rides into the artistic community of Moutere and back again via the coast (gentlecycling.co.nz).



SYDNEY'S

suburban surprises









TOP OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

DIVE INTO THE PAST

Coogee's WYLIE'S BATHS have served Sydney for more than 100 years.

GET YOUR PADDLE ON IN MANLY

Hire a kayak from **MANLY KAYAK CENTRE** or take a guided tour.

BREAK A SWEAT ON THE BAY RUN

This 7KM INNER WEST TRACK runs along Iron Cove Bay, past boat sheds, parks, waterside eateries and more.

SADDLE UP IN CENTENNIAL PARK

No experience is required to enjoy a **HORSE RIDE,** only minutes from Sydney's CBD.

ENJOY LIFE UNDER THE SEA

The weather-beaten boats and deep blue hues of **GORDON'S BAY** are reminiscent of the Mediterranean. Swim, snorkel and soak it up.



WEST

Tired of overpriced city restaurants and generic, 'paint by numbers' menus? Hop on a train to refresh your palate with the flavours of Vietnam, Africa and the Middle East. The Western Suburbs' mouth-watering array of multicultural food options is a drawcard for locals and visitors, but certain suburbs are clear standouts.

Cabramatta is both a rough diamond and a well-known hub for Vietnamese street food, with pho-lovers enjoying some of the best bowls of steaming soup found outside of Saigon. Auburn's strong Turkish influences are evident while walking along its hectic shopping strip. In between halal butchers and cheap-aschips bread shops, you'll find some gems. Mado Café is known for its traditional, churned Turkish ice cream in tart flavours like blackberry, while the longstanding Real Turkish Delight shop casts a considerable shadow over other sweet makers. Auburn's Gallipoli Mosque holds open days regularly, for believers and non-believers alike to learn about the Muslim faith, as well as the history and architecture of the mosque.

As the geographical centre of Sydney, vibrant Parramatta covers all bases with Church Street offering bites from Italy, Thailand, India, China and beyond.



EAST

The beaches are the East's crowning glory and ingrained into the psyche of locals. Each has a distinct personality: bold Bondi, slow-paced Bronte, casual Coogee, local-fave Tamarama, classic Clovelly and down to earth,

territorial Maroubra. While Sydney's beaches are a self-sustaining source of good PR, the local tidal pools receive less exposure, which means fewer crowds (and little-to-no waves for those afraid of getting slammed by rolling surf). Wylie's Baths has old-school flair, while female-only McIver's Baths wins hearts with its unbeatable 20 cent entry fee. At both, there's always a nice mix of lap swimmers and golden oldies that have sported a 'permatan' for decades.

Back on land, the iconic Bondi to Bronte walk can go from a lonely wander to a claustrophobic calamity at the first sight of sunshine. Over in Centennial Park, the super-fit run sweaty laps while families enjoy picnics near the lake and dog walkers stroll in the sun with their canine companions. For a change of pace, Double Bay and Vaucluse mix super yachts with boutique shopping and café society. But regardless of whether you're on land or in the sea, a prevailing trend that defines this part of Sydney is the sheer enjoyment of being outdoors. Eastern Suburbs dwellers know they live in paradise, and sure do make the most of it.





GREAT WAYS TO TAP INTO SYDNEY'S SUBURBS

GET ART-TEA AT WHITE RABBIT 30 Balfour Street, Chippendale

One of the world's largest collections of contemporary Chinese art, plus an onsite teahouse.

whiterabbitcollection.org

STRETCH ON THE SHORE AT YOGA BY THE SEA

Multiple venues in Bronte, Bondi and Tamarama

Join a seaside yoga class to stretch your spine and get some fresh air. yogabythesea.com.au

GET A SUGAR HIGH AT ADRIANO ZUMBO'S PATISSERIE

296 Darling Street, Balmain

Believe the hype - Adriano Zumbo is worshipped for his truly unique tarts, cakes, pastries and macarons.

adrianozumbo.com

GET CULTURED AT THE RIVERSIDE THEATRE

Cnr. Church & Market Street, Parramatta

Catch the RiverCat ferry here from Circular Quay for a show. **riversideparramatta.com.au**

CATCH A TALKIE AT THE GOLDEN AGE CINEMA AND BAR

80 Commonwealth Street, Surry Hills

Grab a popcorn-infused, rum cocktail and sit down to a new, old orcult movie in the lovingly-restored screening room of the old Paramount Pictures building.

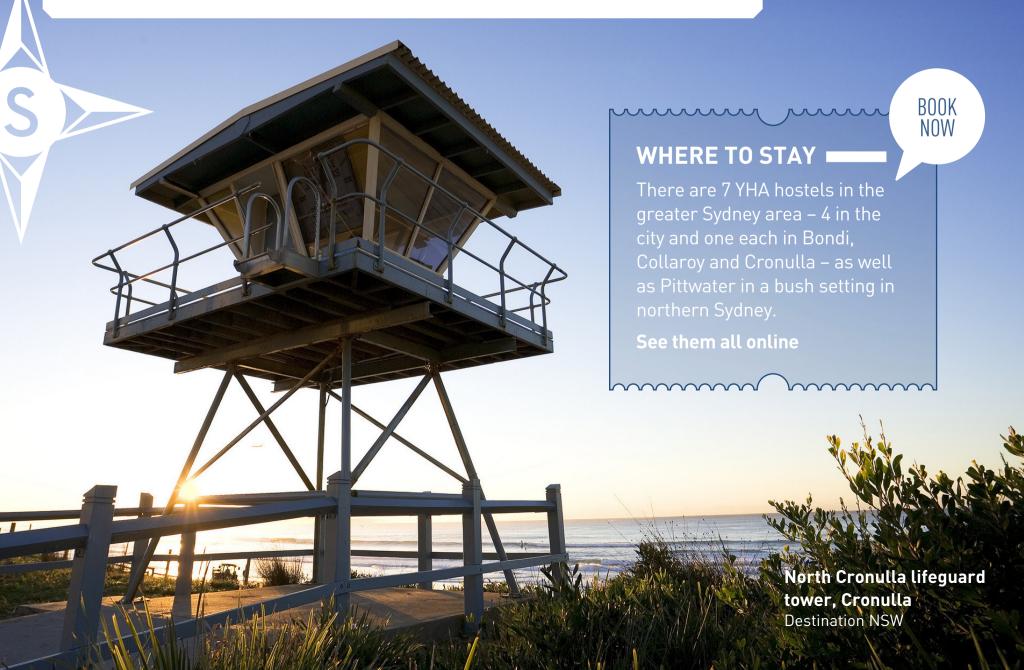
ourgoldenage.com.au

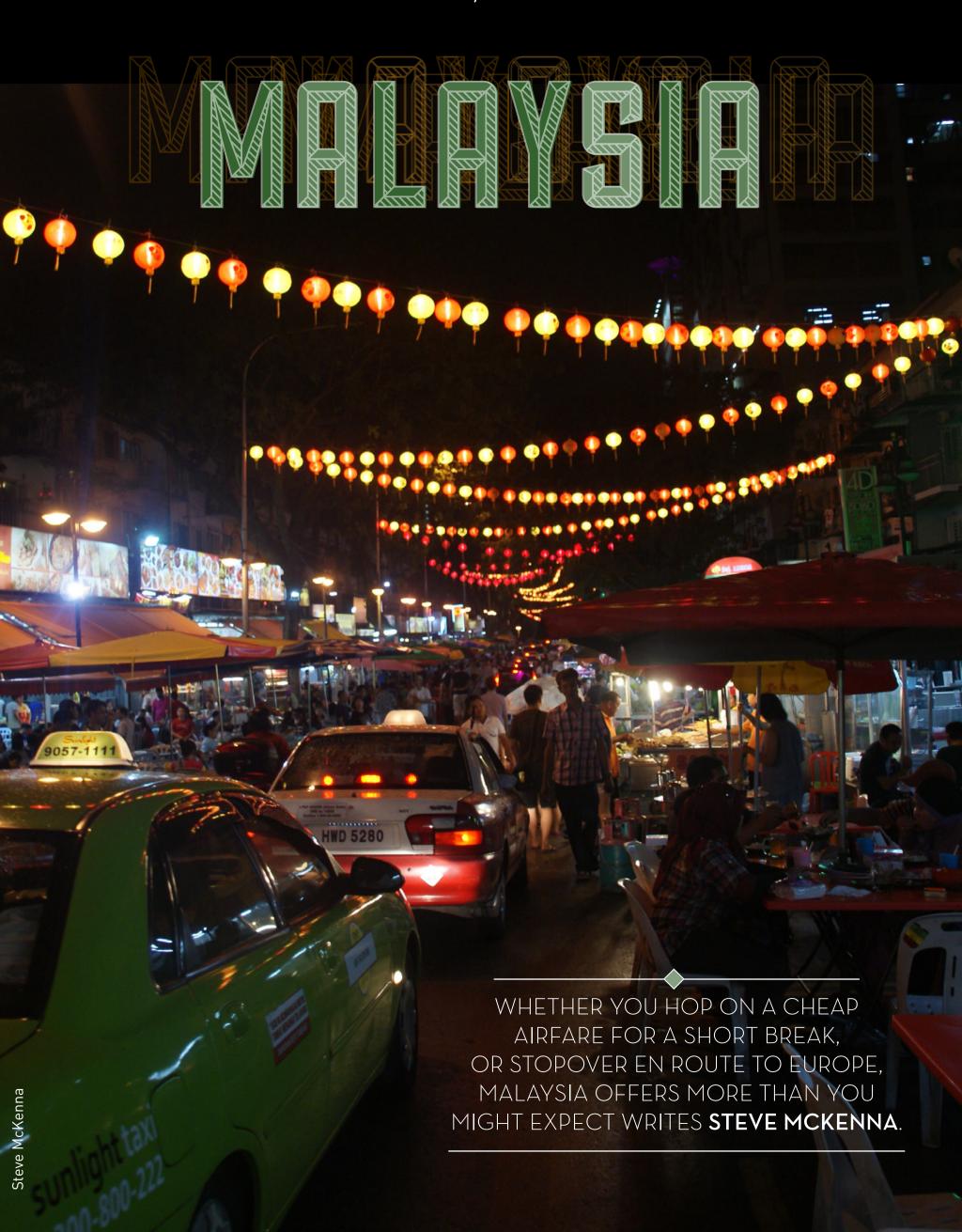
NORTH

A quick dash over the Harbour Bridge in a train or bus reveals a markedly different scene. With harbour views, leafy streets and grand houses, it's no wonder the suburbs of Cremorne, Mosman, and Balmoral attract jaw-dropping, real estate prices. Taronga Zoo is undoubtedly one of the best reasons to visit, although the adorable Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace delights moviegoers with its Art Deco grandeur and old-timey Wurlitzer organ (which is fired up for pre-movie hijinks on special occasions). Further north, the pace continues to slow as the laid back, surf-obsessed northern beaches approach. Home to uncrowded surf breaks and national parkland ripe for exploration, places like Collaroy, Newport and Dee Why epitomise unpretentious Australian beachside living.

SOUTH

Often overlooked, Southern Sydney has its charms if you care to find them. While not as famous as their Eastern counterparts, the beaches found in the suburbs of Ramsgate, Sans Souci and Brighton-Le-Sands offer beauty minus the bustle of Bondi. With a strong Greek community, the Bay Street area of Brighton-Le-Sands is packed with Greek eateries – there's arguably no better place in Sydney to load up on dolmades and saganaki. Heading further south you'll hit Cronulla, in a district locally known as 'The Shire'. Surrounded by national parkland, sleepy hamlets and unassuming suburbs, the Cronulla beach area is a magnet for visitors and locals alike. Swim at the beach, learn to surf, walk along the esplanade or sit at the beachside park with some fish and chips in your lap.





aplastic chair, in a tiny kopitiam (coffeeshop) tucked down a shaded back-street of Kuala

Lumpur's Chinatown, I survey the scrumptious-smelling breakfast spread across my mosaic-topped table.

There's French-style toast drenched in a warm sauce of egg yolk, peanut butter and honey, a freshly blended papaya juice, a platter of sliced banana, melon and pineapple, and a punchy-looking coffee that the elderly Chinese proprietor has sweetened with a dollop of condensed milk.

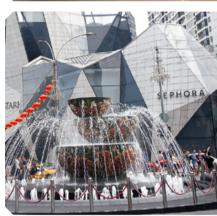
It's ample fuel to kick-start my exploration of Malaysia's steamy capital. Known as KL, this urban jungle edged by tropical jungle, challenges visitors with its heat, humidity and traffic congestion, but rewards with a tantalising range of cultural, shopping and - especially - foodie temptations.

I spend a muggy morning perusing majestic Islamic-inspired architecture, ornate Hindu and Buddhist temples and stately British colonial relics, and before I know it, it's lunch. Rubbing shoulders with head-scarved Malay women in a bustling restaurant cooled by whirring ceiling fans, I embrace the popular Malaysian custom of nasi campur - where diners can choose from an aromatic buffet of freshly-prepared dishes (from beef rendang and coconut curry to stir-fried vegetables and prawn satay).

Stuffed, I hop between the shiny, air-conditioned malls of the skyscraper-packed Bukit Bintang district, alongside trendy young things and besuited businessmen and women scouting the latest











Western and Asian fashions; and later, I find myself amid a whirl of colourful saris in the Little India neighbourhood. It's the backdrop for a tender tandoori chicken feast, with a side order of poppadoms, mango chutney, garlic yoghurt and naan bread.

Over a dessert of cendol - a refreshing concoction of shaved ice, sweet beans and cane syrup - I mull over a day in which I've eaten, and roamed, to my heart and belly's content.

I've spent about 60 ringgits (AU\$20) all in. I go to bed tired, satisfied yet eager for more.

It's a recurring sensation throughout my travels across Malaysia. Shaped by its ethnic Malay, Chinese and Indian populations, and British colonial past, the country has earned a reputation as a dependable and affordable spot on the south-east Asian backpacking circuit (while remaining relatively under the radar compared to Thailand and Bali).

An absorbing first stop, KL is the launch pad to some fabulous destinations. Adventure seekers will be happy to swap metropolitan thrills for natural ones. On the island of Borneo, in the East Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak, you can explore rainforests with the descendants of ancient headhunting tribes, come face to face with endangered orang-utans and catch the sunset from the summit of 4,095 metrehigh Mount Kinabalu.

Most travellers, however, stick to Peninsula Malaysia, the chunk of land - and offshore archipelagos - between Thailand and Singapore.



IT'S BLISS TO ASCEND INTO THE CAMERON HIGHLANDS - A CHAIN OF

LUXURIANT, MISTY MOUNTAINS









After the energy-sapping elements of KL, it's bliss to ascend into the Cameron Highlands - a chain of luxuriant, misty mountains that slalom between 1,200 and 1,500 metres above sea level, north of the capital.

Likened to the former British 'hill station' of Shimla in India, the cooler highlands were a favourite chill-out zone for expats left ruffled by the steamier lowlands of British Malaya. There's a network of beguiling jungle walks, with marked trails cutting through forestry, kaarst humps and rolling greenery, passing waterfalls, strawberry and butterfly farms, golf courses, temples and villages graced with mock-Tudor country piles.

Amid gorgeous, cascading tea fields, you'll find the BOH tea plantation. Founded in 1929, it's now Malaysia's leading tea maker, producing the equivalent of 5.5 million cups a day. You can sample its multi-flavoured teas on an intriguing plantation tour. Ideally, it's worth staying in the highlands for a night or two - though it's a long, but very do-able day trip from KL.

The same can be said about Melaka. A two hour bus ride south of the capital, Melaka - also known as Malacca - rivals Penang as Malaysia's most cosmopolitan enclave.

Hugging the Straits of Malacca, this once-buzzing port was fought over, and colonised, by Malay, Arab, Dutch, Portuguese and British armies and merchants - and these myriad influences are visible, in







the local genes, rich architecture and delicious cuisine. While Melaka is still endearingly gritty in parts, a raft of hip new establishments (including alluring bars, cafes and restaurants) have mushroomed inside the once-dilapidated, mural-clad heritage buildings overlooking the Melaka River.

One thing Melaka doesn't have is great beaches. But further up the west coast, you'll find postcard-perfect seaside vistas, not least on Langkawi, whose enchanting white-sand coves are caressed by swimmable warm sapphire seas.

While it's not quite as commercialised as the big-name Thai islands, some find Langkawi 'too developed' and resort-heavy, and prefer the more rustic charms of Pulau Pangkor.

A favourite with domestic tourists, Pangkor Island is characterised by its traditional laid-back kampung (villages), deserted beaches, inexpensive seafood and monkey-filled jungles laced with invigorating trekking routes.

Many Malaysians and wizened backpackers, however, claim the islands on Peninsula Malaysia's east coast are a cut above those on the west, with Pulau Perhentian and Pulau Tioman among their beloved beachy escapes.

From top: Mural clad buildings line the Melaka River; a colourful way to see the sights of Melaka; a beach in Pulau Pangkor; local birdlife, Pulau Pangkor.

Steve McKenna

WHERE TO STAY

There is only one official YHA/HI hostel in Malaysia, in Melaka. But they have negotiated special rates for YHA members at a range of other accommodation. Find out more at

hi-malaysia.org.my





KLCC PARK:

Despite its ever-expanding glass-and-concrete sprawl, Kuala Lumpur has a clutch of pleasant green spaces. The Lake Gardens and KL Bird Park - which is home to peacocks, parrots and hornbills - are worth seeking out. But in terms of marrying man-made and natural elements, it's hard to beat Kuala Lumpur City Centre Park. This lush, leafy retreat is positioned next to the monumental Petronas Twin Towers, one of the world's greatest pieces of modern architecture. Nice enough by day, the park really comes into its own around sunset, when joggers, walkers and cameracarrying tourists tread the paths that ring the fountainstudded park. Watching the lights on the Petronas crackle to life against a pink-hued sky, as the call to prayer sounds from the park's mosque, is a spine-tingling experience.



BATU CAVES:

Travellers in south east Asia usually complain of getting 'templed out'. They often suffer from 'cave fatigue', too, such is the large number of explorable caves dug into the region's limestone landscapes. But the Batu Caves, 12km north of KL, are pretty special. Revered by Hindus, the cave complex houses a series of beautiful shrines, while the 272 steps leading up to the entrance are guarded by a giant statue of the Hindu deity, Murugan. Each year (usually January), Hindu pilgrims flock here for the vibrant Thaipusam festival. Two things to be wary of at the Batu Caves: the resident monkeys, who are partial to snatching cameras and ice creams, and the waiting taxi drivers, who have been known to overcharge tourists. Avoid the latter by riding the KTM Komuter train, which links Batu with KL. It's part of the city's fastdeveloping rail network (the highlight being the excellent KLIA Ekspres, which zooms the 57km from the airport to the city in 28 minutes).



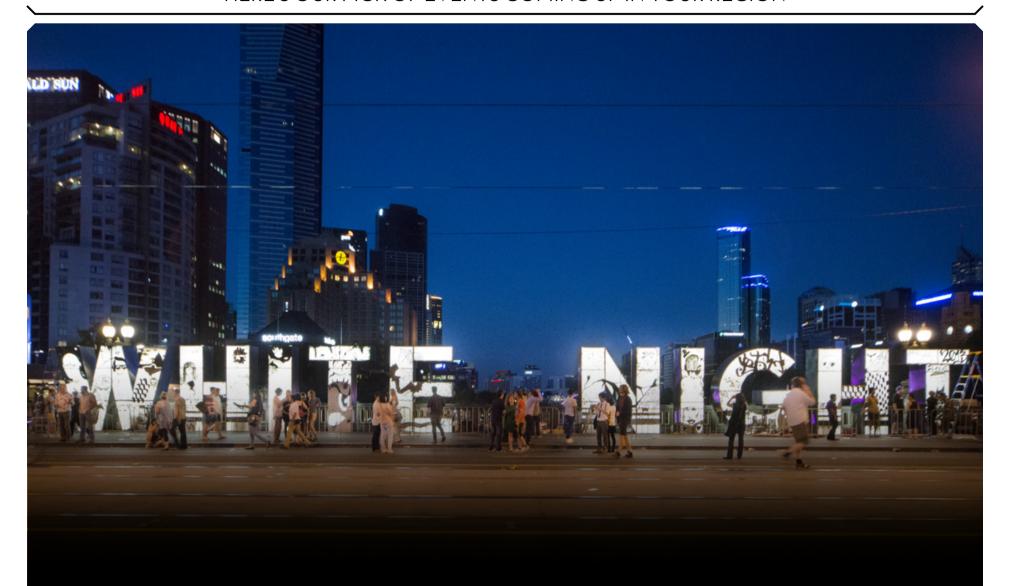
HAWKER CULTURE:

Malaysia isn't short of fancy restaurants and iconic Western chains, but some of the best food is rustled up at stalls set up on pavements, or in openair hawker centres. Don't be afraid to tuck in. George Town in Penang and the Jonker Street Weekend Night Market in Melaka are renowned for their snack-tastic treats, which include spicy curry laksa, grilled squid and custard tarts. In KL, Tang City Food Court in Chinatown's Petaling Street flea market is a reliable option for beef noodle soup and char kuey teow, though you may find it more fun to graze the stalls cramming the nearby alleys. Jalan Alor is another KL street food hotspot. It's round the corner from Changkat Bukit Bintang - the city's liveliest nightlife strip (be warned, though: high alcohol taxes mean Malaysia isn't a budget drinking destination like Thailand and Vietnam). To sample typical street food in neat, air-conditioned comfort, try the Hutong food court under the Lot 10 mall in Bukit Bintang, where some of Malaysia's finest hawkers have gathered under one roof.

Tourism Malaysia, Steve McKenna

WHAT'S ON

HERE'S OUR PICK OF EVENTS COMING UP IN YOUR REGION



WHITE NIGHT MELBOURNE

22 February 2014

From dusk til dawn, on 22 February, Melbourne's public spaces, laneways, parks and buildings will be transformed into an all-night wonderland for this major new event. The broad-based program packs plenty of experiences into one night celebrating music, food, film, art, design, fashion and light. From art installations to performances, dance to themed social gatherings, there is something for everyone. whitenightmelbourne.com.au

 Stay at Melbourne Metro YHA or book your bed at Melbourne Central YHA

Click here to see more fantastic Melbourne events



BOOK NOW



WOMAD NEW PLYMOUTH

14-16 March 2014

Walk through the gates of WOMAD for a weekend in New Plymouth and see the world through the eyes of music, arts, dance and stories. WOMAD (World of Music, Arts and Dance) is a three-day global music festival unlike anything else you will experience in New Zealand. The line-up should satisfy every WOMAD enthusiast with a curious mix of familiar and unfamiliar artists travelling from as far abroad as Japan, Algeria and the USA. Don't forget to bring your dancing shoes! The motto for WOMAD this year:

Dance till you drop. womad.co.nz

- ◆ Stay at YHA New Plymouth
- ◆ 0800 278 299 (NZ) or 1800 242 191 (Aus)
- ♦ book@yha.co.nz

SAVE WITH YHA NEW PLYMOUTH'S 3-NIGHT DEAL

WOMAD



WOMADELAIDE

7-10 March 2013

WOMADelaide takes over Adelaide's Botanic Gardens for four days of world music, dance, visual arts and culturally diverse roving performances that never fail to entertain and enthrall. New this year:

WOMADelaide now offers YHA members **concession rate tickets** on single day, night, and three or four-day passes!

womadelaide.com.au

- ◆ Stay at Adelaide Central YHA
- +61 8 8414 3010
- ♦ adlcentral@yha.com.au



BOOK NOW

NOW

GOLD AND THE INCAS EXHIBITION

Until 21 April 2014

From the Impressionists to the Renaissance and Turner, Canberra is a magnet for the biggest and best exhibitions to hit Australia's shores. Now comes Gold and the Incas: Lost Worlds of Peru, exclusive to the National Gallery, showcasing a priceless collection from Peru's famous Inca empire and cultures even older. Between 500 and 2,000 years old, these extraordinary objects including intricate golden jewellery, elaborate woven cloths and sophisticated ceramic sculptures are a must-see for anyone with even a passing interest in art, culture or history. nga.gov.au **BOOK**

◆ Take advantage of Canberra City YHA's Autumn Break package. Book online.

SICAN-LAMBAYEQUE culture North coast 750-1375 AD Tumi (Sacrificial knife) gold, silver, chrysocolla, turquoise, lapis lazuli, spondylus; 27.5 x 10.3cm Museo Oro del Peru, Lima © Photograph Daniel Giannoni



17-21 April 2014

The granddaddy of Australian blues and roots festivals returns

to the East Coast with more than 100 artists taking over 6 stages for over 200 performances in 5 days. An eclectic line-up of international and Aussie artists including John Mayer, Jack Johnson, Beth Hart, Morcheeba are on the roll call. Book early. bluesfest.com.au



◆ Stay at Byron Bay or Cape Byron YHA





SURFERS PARADISE FESTIVAL

2-27 April 2014

NOW

The Surfers Paradise Festival is back with a bang in 2014 to dazzle, delight and celebrate the Gold Coast's music, art, food and culture. See Surfers come alive with the Launch It concert series, the Australian Street Entertainment Championships, the One Way Street Part and the hypnotic pyrotechnics of "Seafire", and so much more. surfersparadisefestival.com

- Surfers Paradise YHA
- +61 7 5571 1776
- surfersparadise@yha.com.au





QUEENSTOWN BIKE FESTIVAL

12 March - 20 April 2014

Keen bikers from all over the world will descend on Queenstown with bikes in tow for this festival celebrating bikes and the people who love to ride them. With more than 110km of established cross country trails, Queenstown is fast becoming known for its world class rides. This festival is packed with events for both weekend warriors and hardened pros, cross country riders, downhillers, free riders, roadies and biking enthusiasts. Cheer on the competitors or strap on your helmet and start pedalling for this showcase of Queenstown's biking, scenery, action and all the activities this alpine village has on offer. queenstownbikefestival.com BOOK

- Stay at YHA Queenstown Central or YHA Queenstown Lakefront
- 0800 278 299 (NZ) or 1800 242 191 (Aus)
- book@yha.co.nz



NOW



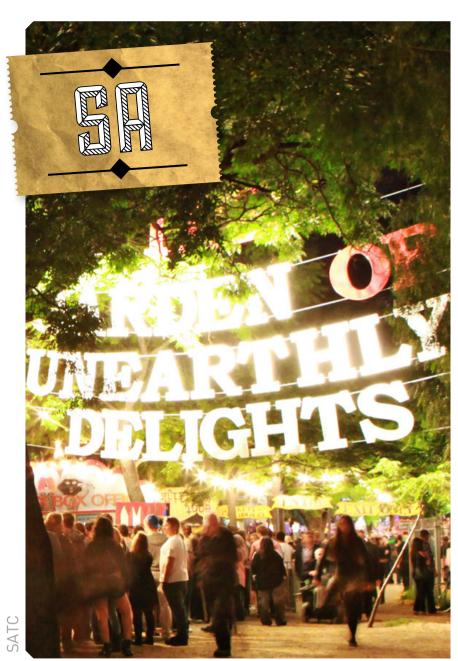
TE HOUTAEWA CHALLENGE

15 March 2014

Lace up your shoes or snap up a spot on the sidelines for the world's only ultra-marathon run entirely on the beach. Each year the far north village of Ahipara relives the legend of Te Houtaewa who outran his enemies over the hard sands of Te Oneroa a Tohe. Ninety Mile Beach. For the past 21 years athletes from around the world have followed in his footsteps for this 63km race. At the finish line, competitors and spectators can visit the Village and celebrate the traditional Māori Tā moko (tattoo), Whakairo (wood, stone and bone carving), Raranga (weaving), pottery and painting. tehoutaewa.co.nz BOOK

NOW

- Stay at YHA Ahipara
- 0800 278 299 (NZ) or 1800 242 191 (Aus)
- book@yha.co.nz



ADELAIDE FESTIVAL & FRINGE

14 Feburary -16 March 2014

For four balmy summer weeks from 14 February to 16 March, **Adelaide Fringe**, the largest arts event in the Southern Hemisphere, literally takes over the entire city with over 900 events staged in pop-up venues from parks, warehouses, and to theatres, hotels, art galleries and cafés. There's comedy, cabaret, circus and physical theatre, dance, film, theatre, puppetry, music, visual art and design and everything in between. Even better, it overlaps with the richly diverse **Adelaide Festival**, 28 February to 16 March, which brings a captivating array of world-acclaimed arts and performance events to Australia's Festival City. *adelaidefringe.com.au* or *adelaidefestival.com.au*

BOOK NOW

- ◆ Stay at Adelaide Central YHA
- **◆** +61 8 8414 3010
- ♦ adlcentral@yha.com.au

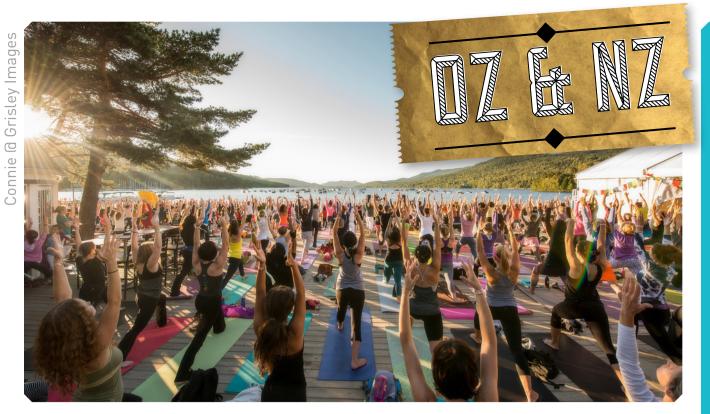
PERTH ROOFTOP MOVIES

Until 30 April 2014

Perth's Rooftop Movies is back for another season of cult and classic screen treats. Watch the stars under the stars atop Northbridge's Roe Street Car Park, complete with palm trees, astro turf, stripey deckchairs, preshow entertainment and light snacks. Pre-purchase pizzas with your ticket. rooftopmovies.com.au

......

- Stay at Perth City YHA
- +61 8 9287 3333
- ◆ perthcity@yha.com.au



WANDERLUST IN THE CITY - MELBOURNE, AUCKLAND, SYDNEY

10, 23 & 30 March 2014

Wanderlust, the world's largest and fastest growing yoga and music platform, is inviting yogis to roll out their mats across Australasia during its debut series of Wanderlust in the City dates, Down Under. Taking place in iconic locations in Melbourne, Auckland and Sydney, the day will feature an unparalleled mix of immersive yoga sessions, cutting-edge musical performances, organic eats and unique outdoor activities in the heat of the late antipodean summer. There are a number of free events, including an organic food co-op and craft market, musical performances from DJs and musicians such as Ministry of Sound's Goodwill, and a yoga sessions with renowned yoga teachers. Of course, after a hard days work on the mat Wanderlust will host a 'Winederlust' with organic wine, craft beer & farm-to-table food offerings to refresh the palate and invigorate the spirit against the backdrop of a brewing dance party.

Melbourne: 10 March 2014

Stay at Melbourne Metro YHA or Melbourne Central YHA

mel.wanderlustfestival.com

Auckland: 23 March 2014

Stay at YHA Auckland City or YHA Auckland International

akl.wanderlustfestival.com

Sydney: 30 March 2014

- Stay at Sydney Central, Railway Square or Sydney Harbour YHA
- syd.wanderlustfestival.com









SYDNEY MARDI GRAS

7 February -

2 March 2014

Stay Sydney Central YHA

ADELAIDE CLIPSAL 500

27 February – 2 March 2014

Stay Adelaide Central YHA

PASIFIKA FESTIVAL

8-9 March 2014

Stay YHA Auckland City
or YHA Auckland
International

NOOSA FESTIVAL OF SURFING

9-15 March 2014

Stay Halse Lodge YHA

MARCHFEST

22 March 2014

Stay YHA Nelson



BACKPACKER /ESSENTIALS

YHA.COM.AU

YHA.CO.NZ

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